

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2008**

The monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, April 28, 2008, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, William A. Estrella, Jr, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM.

Present: William A. Estrella, Jr., Chair, Marjorie J. McBride, Vice-Chair, Paul Silva, Secretary, William M. O'Dell, Treasurer, Paul E. Brule, Diana B. Campbell, David L. Dugan, Karen A. Lynch and John P. Saviano; Edward P. Mara, Superintendent; Melinda L. Thies, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction; Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance; Leslie J. Anderson, Acting Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and Andrew D. Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: none

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Accolades

The Science Olympiad Team did a great job at Rhode Island College on April 5th representing Mt. Hope. The team of six students attended and worked hard all day competing in many events. We are especially proud of a Mt. Hope Senior who earned a gold medal at the Science Bowl. Congratulations to:

Robert Cotta

The Rhode Island State Drama Festival was recently held at Mt. Hope High School. Mt. Hope's entry in the Festival, "Family Life, 3 Brutal Comedies," under the direction of Carol Schlink, was very successful, receiving both critical and popular praise! Special Awards were made to the outstanding participants and six Mt. Hope students received special recognition:

All-State Cast: Jake O'Flaherty

Zachary Cooper

Brittany Rapoza

Ken Oliveira

Stanley Anderson Award

for Technical Merit: Shaelyn Maynard for Stage Management

Director's Choice Award: Lynn McCoomb

On Thursday, March 27, 2008, the 7th grade girls at Kickemuit had the opportunity to attend Raytheon for the day. In order to participate in the field trip, each girl was asked to write a five paragraph essay on a female scientist. The Raytheon visit was a wonderful opportunity for the girls to see women engineers in action, and to participate in the various hands-on and engaging workshops that Raytheon provided. The girls had a great time and learned many things during their trip. All the young ladies exhibited fine behavior and we are very proud of three "Woman Scientist" essay contest winners:

Runners Up: Sydney Simone and Angela Mascena

First Prize: Vivian Ramos

Since its formation, the Mt. Hope Booster's Club has done many wonderful things for sports at Mt. Hope High School. Many people volunteer their time and efforts for our student athletes. We hereby recognize the Boosters Club for purchasing three defibrillators for our sports teams that are playing and practicing away from the school and present a Certificate of Gratitude to their President, Chris Ferreira.

The Mt. Hope High School Vocal Ensemble, Women's Chorus, Jazz Choir and Guitar Ensemble participated in "Festivals of Music" in Williamsburg, VA on April 10-13, 2008 with an award ceremony at Busch Gardens. The groups, under the direction of Vicki Boyle, won the following awards:

Mt. Hope High School Vocal Ensemble: 2nd Place with a rating of Excellent

Mt. Hope High School Women's Choir: 1st place with a rating of Excellent

Mt. Hope High School Guitar Ensemble: 1st place with a rating of Superior

Mt. Hope High School Combo: Most Outstanding Accompaniment

Mt. Hope High School Jazz Choir "JIVE": 1st place with a rating of Superior and Most Outstanding Choir Overall

Women's Chorus Guitar Ensemble Vocal Ensemble JIVE (Jazz Choir)

Allie Aubrey Nikki Andrade Tim Boughton Tim Boughton

Cordelia Boyle Phoebe Andos Cordelia Boyle Craig Canario

Meghan Brum Brooke Cotta Craig Canario Jon Higgins

Alison Cairrao Brianna Dias Jon Kmeciak Jon Kmeciak

Katie Floor Scott Dozier Mike Larrivee Claire Randall

Brittany Gamon Erin Flannery Brooke Marshall Danielle Sheet

Brooke Marshall Joel Motta Matt Perreault Emma Leary

Kathleen Meegan Stacy O'Shaughnessy Claire Randall Kathleen Meegan

Erin Meagher Eddy Pereira Danielle Sheets Matt Perreault

Karlie Morra Matt Perreault Chelsea Panzarella Sam Carreiro

Chelsea Panzarella Justin Roscoe Karlie Morra

Samantha Perry Hannah Stanton Emma Leary

Nicole Proulx Matt Sylvia Christy Silva

Claire Randall Cam VanMater

Alyssa Redmond

Meghan Sauve

Danielle Sheets

Christy Silva

Crystal Tavares

Holly Whipp

Samantha Yonan

Emma Leary

In November 2007 the Warren Police Department instituted a system of 800/700 MHz encrypted interoperatable emergency radio communications with our Warren schools, which has proven itself a secure and reliable alternative method of communication with school staff and public safety personnel. Warren Police Chief Thomas Gordon used \$17,766 in federal funding to purchase seven more systems for use in our District schools located in Bristol. We would like to thank Chief Gordon and the Warren Police Department for their generosity and demonstration of true commitment to the safety of all our children.

The Rhode Island / Massachusetts Arson Watch Reward Program recently named the winners of their 2008 Arson Poster Contest, the theme of which is “Wake Up and Face the Facts—Carbon Monoxide/Smoke Detectors Save Lives.” An award luncheon at the Crowne Plaza will be held on May 29 in honor of the winning students. We are proud to say that one of our Kickemuit Middle School students, under

the direction of Art Teacher Maria Camara, is a First Place Winner!
We congratulate: Sydney Beck

The Mt. Hope High School Robotics and Engineering Club placed second in the regional qualifying FIRST FTC Competition held on March 2, 2008 at New England Tech. This earned Mt. Hope High School the opportunity to compete in the “Showcase Tournament” in Atlanta, Georgia on April 18, as one of twelve competitive teams, including teams from seven other high schools, Carnegie Mellon Institute, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The four best teams were chosen to compete in the Showcase Championship. The first and second place ranking teams were paired up in an alliance to compete against the third and fourth place teams. Paired up with Carnegie Mellon University, as the first and second place team alliance, the Mt. Hope High School Robotics and Engineering Club was able to prevail victorious as the competition went into its third and final round. The students spent many days before and after school and every Saturday for the past four weeks, making sure the robot ran perfectly in order to achieve this goal, and four students were able to attend the competition.

First, we would like to commend and congratulate I-Tech teacher, Ryan Garrity, for the enormous amount of effort and extra time he spent in obtaining equipment, repairing faulty manufacturer programming, working with the students and arranging Mt. Hope’s

attendance at the competition. The students' success would not have been possible without Mr. Garrity's perseverance and dedication to the students and the project.

With pride, we congratulate:

Richard Charbonneau

Patrick Gaudreau

Kyle Porto

Jordan Sousa

Geoffrey Hawley

Tara Alden

The four students who built the robot, Richard, Patrick, Kyle and Jordan, gave a live demonstration of "Dexter." Mr. Garrity explained that the robot's functions, when applied in a larger scale, could be used in natural disaster situations. Mr. Steven Eaton, Head of the Mt. Hope Industrial Technology Department, presented each of the students and Mr. Garrity with a trophy, stating that Mr. Garrity has gone above and beyond and students are learning technology and engineering at the same time. He also thanked Mr. Rebello and Administration for their support of this project.

Warren Police Chief Gordon said the encrypted radio system has been very successful in Warren and will soon be connected to the Emergency Management Agency; Bristol fire and rescue will be receiving twelve radios. Mr. Estrella thanked Chief Gordon for applying for the grant and for seeing the need.

Mr. Christopher Ferreira, President of the Boosters Club, said the Club meets on the first Monday of each month and he encouraged anyone interested, to become involved, they welcome more community involvement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve the consent agenda; Mr. Brule seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0. The Committee recognized the retirement of Margaret McKiernan and thanked her for her years of service to the students.

BUDGET/ FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. O'Dell reported the next Budget meeting is Wednesday, May 14, at 6:00 PM at Oliver. Discussion will be on cuts that must be made to balance the budget; the session is open to the public. Mr. Estrella reminded the full Committee that recalls will be made at the May 19 meeting.

Dr. Mara informed the Committee he had suggested to the

Subcommittee that some of the unexpected savings be used to purchase a language lab for Mt. Hope High School; there has not been one there for many years. He invited Mr. Donald Rebello, Mt. Hope Principal, Ms. Nancy McMahon, Head of the Language Department, and Ms. Laura Manchester, Language Teacher, to provide further information about language labs. Mr. O'Dell explained that this presentation will provide the Committee information needed to make an educated decision on what to do with the almost \$200,000 in savings. Mr. Rebello thanked the Committee for the opportunity to give this presentation and after researching benefits and analyzing cost factors, high school administration wholeheartedly endorses the idea; it will benefit 750 to 800 students each year, it will encourage teacher by-in, it will improve fluency skills and will allow opportunities for students to demonstrate their proficiency. Ms. McMahon explained a lab would give students at all levels an opportunity to hear native speakers, converse with other students, provide audio on demand, receive immediate feedback on tests, and their folders would contribute to their portfolios; it would also support the listening and speaking tests required of an AP Spanish class they are hoping to add. There are three different types of labs; the most desirable is the least expensive at approximately \$75,000, which is used in and recommended by Tiverton and Barrington. The system comes with training for the tech office and faculty, free email support, training for AP proctors and a warrantee. The vendor that was contacted is the same one who installed the original lab many years ago. The former lab had to be dismantled because of a broken

piece of equipment that was too outdated to replace, but the lab itself was in pristine condition. Different lessons can go on at the same time; students can take lessons home with them; in a seven-day cycle, each teacher would have one day in the lab each cycle.

Ms. Manchester concurred that each level of students would receive a great deal of comprehensive input; students like the interactivity and technology of the lab and view it as a treat; it is both software and teacher dependent and software can be accessed from many sources; it relates extremely well to PBGRs and provides many opportunities for problem solving. Mr. Estrella said the purchase would be subject to our bid process; he has concerns about timing and parameters. Mr. Rebello said it appears that the lab could be constructed over the summer without an issue. Mrs. Campbell, who has experience with language labs at other high schools, alerted them to pay special attention to the headphones. Mrs. McBride suggested the Chair of the Budget Subcommittee be asked to place this on the agenda for further discussion. In response to Mr. Saviano, Dr. Mara said NEASC cited us for not having a language lab; Mr. Rebello responded we would lose some classroom space but there is room for the lab; and to Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Saviano commented that if we do not have to use the money elsewhere, he is in favor of the language lab.

Mr. O'Dell said the Budget Subcommittee will discuss the issue, as well as global discussion of the use of the \$198,000 of savings; at Mr.

Saviano's and Mr. Dugan's request, a list of items in competition for the funding, in order of priority, will be available for discussion.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. McBride stated the next meeting is Monday, May 5; the discussion will focus on handbooks and will be about specifics; Mrs. Thies has addressed Kickemuit handbook issues with Kickemuit.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Silva will report on BWEA negotiations in executive session.

COLT ANDREWS CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. McBride reported the project to be on budget and on time, although very tight time; she has scheduled a series of meetings in May and June and the May 8 meeting will include discussion on playground space, which is of concern to some parents. It has been agreed to review and discuss some proposed playground plans and seek a remedy; the plans for the playground do not include equipment; the Town will have to be approached to change the number of parking spaces. Paint colors for the building have been chosen.

TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE AND ELECTRONIC SCHOOL BOARD

Mrs. Campbell said a meeting of the Task Force will be scheduled.

Mrs. Campbell reported on her visit to the Providence School Board Meeting on May 24th to observe the use of Electronic School Board in action. Each School Committee member has a laptop and the agenda and other documents are displayed on two screens, one faces the audience and one faces the Committee; votes are taken using the laptops and are displayed on the screens and recorded as part of the minutes. Mrs. Campbell commented that it seems like “a Cadillac way of doing things.” Advantages include public access to documents, enhanced public observance of votes and proceedings; consistency in the way items are logged, tracked and archived; timesaver for administration. Disadvantages: not compatible with Secretary of State’s website; rather costly--\$20,000 plus cost of laptops, projectors and internet access for members.

Comments:

- Mr. Estrella – public will have better knowledge of how the Committee votes; the Committee can be more responsive; provides scan back capabilities; worth the investment; asks Administration to get a firm price and the Budget Subcommittee to discuss.**
- Mrs. McBride – not a great idea.**
- Mrs. Campbell – Technology Task Force could research other similar applications and the Committee could consider the system after the Technology move and Colt Andrews is complete.**
- Dr. Mara – Suggests a roll call vote or show of hands.**
- Mr. Saviano – Would vote against it; although not a bad idea, there**

are far better places to spend the \$30,000 when we are laying people off.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

ACTION: That the School Committee support Resolution # 2008-03-24 of the Town of Portsmouth to support House Bill No. 7108.

ACTION: That the School Committee support the Resolution of the Town Council of East Greenwich to support House Bill No. 7776.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano motioned to support House Bills No. 7108 and No. 7776. Mrs. Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Estrella instructed the clerk to notify our Senators and Representatives of this action in a formal letter.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

Recommendation #S 2008-20: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

A. CONTINUING ADULT EDUCATION: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individual as an instructor for the 2007-08 Continuing Adult Education Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:

Name Address Course

- 1. LeeAnn Freitas 134 Bayview Avenue, Bristol Landscape Design/
Flower Arranging**

B. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CERTIFIED

Name Area/Level

- 1. Kelly DiGioia Elementary**
- 2. Abby E. Fay Art**
- 3. Kristine S. McPherson General Subject Matter**

C. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for classified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE

- 1. Serafim F. Costa**
- 2. Michael D. LaRoche**

D. RESIGNATIONS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations listed below:

1. Margaret McKiernan Grade/Team Leader – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: June 13, 2008

Reason: Retirement

2. William Connell Head Boys Tennis Coach – Mt. Hope High

Effective: April 17, 2008

Reason: Personal

Recommendation #S 2008-18: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the resolution for a loan from the Town of Bristol related to the Colt Fund.

Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve for discussion; Mrs. McBride seconded.

Recommendation #S 2008-21: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, ratify the resolution for bonding approvals.

Mrs. McBride motioned to approve for the purpose of discussion; Mr. O'Dell seconded.

Mrs. Correia explained that the Colt Fund loan is worded so as not to commit the District to spending our own money, repayments will be made from interest and the principal will be preserved. The original amount of \$1.7M was increased to \$2M to cover all alternates and will be used only as a backup to bond funding. Any housing aid received from Colt Fund supported improvements will be returned to the Town.

Mr. Saviano expressed concern about restoration and renovation of buildings in Bristol being paid for by both towns. Mr. Estrella said this loan against the Colt Fund was set up some time ago and our goal is to lock in housing aid reimbursement; the past six to ten years we have accessed every source available to us, we are “on the good side of a bad situation.” Mrs. Correia commented that this is housing aid we would not have received without this loan. The funds are earmarked for the roof, boiler and auditorium (alternates).

The motion to approve Recommendation #S 2008-18 passed by a vote of 8 to 1, with Mr. Saviano voting no.

The motion to approve Recommendation #S 2008-21 passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Recommendation #S 2008-22: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2008-2009 School Calendar.

Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mr. Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Next year school starts on August 27 and ends

on June 17. Mr. Silva requested a correction to a trimester notation.

Recommendation #S 2008-23: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, award the bid for the Mt. Hope High School sound rooms.

Mrs. Correia reported only one bid was received, from Winger, for \$36,349. Mr. Saviano motioned to approve; Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Recommendation #S 2008-24: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised School Committee Policy BFD Policy Dissemination (First Reading)

Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mr. Silva seconded. Mr. O'Dell motioned to amend paragraph 2. The law does not require copies to be placed on the website, therefore, instead of the revision indicated, leave the wording as is and insert a new paragraph after the second paragraph to read "The policy book shall also be placed on the Bristol Warren website (www2.bw.k12.ri.us)." The motion to amend was seconded by both Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. McBride, and was approved unanimously. The motion to approve the recommendation as amended passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Recommendation #S 2008-25: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised School Committee Policy IKF Graduation Requirements (First Reading)

Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion

passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:50 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Saviano motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:50 PM to discuss contract issues, personnel issues and BWEA contract negotiation issues. Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. McBride seconded. Mr. Estrella recused himself from BWEA contract negotiation discussion; and since no vote will be taken when open session resumes, he dismissed the camera. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 9:55 PM

The Committee discussed issues noted above.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:56 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Brule, seconded by Mrs. Campbell, motioned to adjourn at 9:56 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Silva, Secretary

/c